

Appl. No. 09/729,080

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Amendment/Response

Reply to Office Action of

May 20, 2003

REMARKS/DISCUSSION OF THE ISSUES

Claims 1, 4-6, 8, 11-13, 15-20, 21, and 23 are presently pending in the captioned application. Claims 1, 8, 12, 15, 21 and 23 are independent claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the allowability of the subject matter of allowed claims 1, 4-6, and 15-20, and objected-to claims 9, 11-13, 22 and 23.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 8, 10, 14 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable in view of Applicant's admitted prior art and *Mueller, et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,864,496). In view of the present amendment, this rejection is moot.

Claim 8 has been amended to include the subject matter of objected-to claim 9. Claim 12 has been amended to include the subject matter of previously pending claim 11, which is now cancelled. Claims 10 and 14 have been cancelled. Claims 21 and 23 have been amended to include the subject matter of previously pending claims 21 and 22, and previously pending claims 21 and 23, respectively.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are allowable. Withdrawal of

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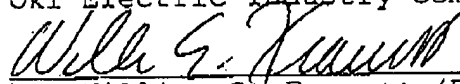
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all rejections and objections is respectfully requested.

In the event that there are any outstanding matters remaining in the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact William S. Francos, Esq. (Reg. No. 38,456) at (610) 375-3513 to discuss these matters.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and further replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account Number 50-0238 for any additional fees, including, but not limited to, fees required under 37 C.F.R. \$1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. \$1.17.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of:
Oki Electric Industry Company, Ltd.



by: William S. Francos (Reg. No. 38,456)

OFFICIAL

August 20, 2003
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